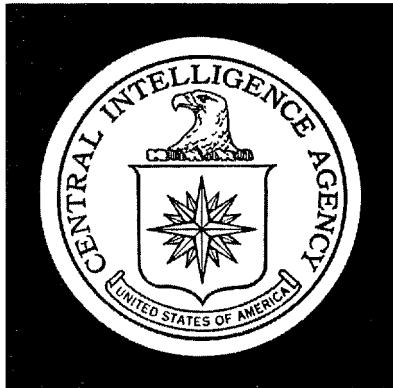


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[redacted]
Arab States: Syrian tariff restrictions irritate
Lebanon, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. (Page 3)

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Arab States: [Saudi Arabia and Iraq have begun to retaliate against Syrian tariff restrictions on them.]

The Saudis and Iraqis, after failure of their diplomatic protests to Syria, are reported to have cut off all business contacts with Syria, banned entry of Syrians, and forbidden their nationals to go to Syria.

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The Syrians, who charge that Lebanon is harboring exiled Syrian coup plotters, recently instituted discriminatory restrictions on Lebanese goods and traffic passing through Syria. Lebanon has taken some countermeasures, but hopes to solve the problem without resorting to measures which would anger the Syrians into escalating the problem.

Damascus is well aware of Saudi connections with Syrian exiles, and anti-Saudi trade restrictions would have the double benefit of hurting the Lebanese as well. The Syrians' central position in the area enables them to control traffic to Beirut from all the eastern Arab states. The Lebanese, however, seem determined not to respond to the Syrian sanctions by curtailing the activities of Syrian exiles.

The Damascus regime

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[] seems to be even more worried than usual over its survival, and is resorting to economic warfare to get its neighbors to crack down on Syrian exiles.

(continued)

Jordan, also heavily dependent on Syria as a trade route, has apparently made a deal with Damascus to use the Syrian port of Latakia instead of Beirut.

[The Syrian action and the Iraqi-Saudi reactions are the latest evidence of growing Arab disunity.]

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